

Fax

To: Richard Burke -- Eagle Marine Industries **From:** Daniel Chamberlin

Fax: (618) 875-1505

Pages: 1

Phone: (618) 875-1153

Date: 12/03/99

Re: Newspaper Article -- Solutia's Clean-Up CC:

of Area 1, Sauget December 1, 1999 Belleville News-Democrat

☐ Urgent ☒ For Review ☐ Please Comment ☐ Please Reply ☐ Please Recycle

Comments: Dick:
Thought this may interest you

By Monica Polanco
Belleville News-Democrat

CAHOKIA — Solutia Inc. may agree to clean up the most heavily contaminated area in Dead Creek if the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approves Solutia's proposal, officials said Tuesday.

Solutia's management hopes to present the EPA with a cleanup design Friday for removing hazardous materials released from its W.G. Krummrich plant in Sauget, said Michael Light, Solutia's project

manager. The cleanup is expected to begin this winter and is projected to last about two months, said Kevin Turner, an EPA representative.

Light was one of about 50 people, including residents of Cahokia and the Dead Creek area, who attended a town meeting at the Bethel United Church of Christ to update residents on contaminants found in Dead Creek, a site of toxic dumping for more than 40 years.

Solutia, which produces chemicals for motor oil, dyes and pain relievers, is studying contamination levels in two areas on the southern tip of the creek under an order issued in June by the EPA. The company polluted the creek while operating as Monsanto.

The locations, named areas one and two, were chosen because they are the most highly concentrated areas of toxic waste, Turner said.

helped create contamination

The EPA is monitoring Solutia's investigation and taking independent samples of ground water, soil and other sediment to verify Solutia's findings, Turner said. The contamination in the area was brought to light by the 1993 floods, which unearthed several drums of toxic chemicals and paint waste.

For years, the Illinois EPA tried to reach an agreement with Solutia and 25 other companies believed respon-

sible for the contamination, but was unsuccessful. This year, the U.S. EPA, which has more resources, stepped in to help resolve the problem, said Michael McAteer, EPA remedial project manager.

Though the process of bringing accountability has been long, residents of Dead Creek said they hope the federal government's involvement will push Solutia into action.

"I feel more confident that something's going to be done," said Diane McDonnell, who lives on Judith Lane. "We're being taken more seriously now."

But waste removal will not begin until after April 2001, after the final study results.

"It's not an easy answer," Turner said. "We're kind of looking at this in phases. You just don't go in there and all of a sudden have the flooding go away."

The creek has overflowed into neighboring homes.

What silent screen star
used to sell popcorn
in East St. Louis?

See page 13 of the
special section for the answer



Timeline for a Century

Take a look back at the newsmakers and
events that shaped the metro-east and
beyond during the last 100 years

See inside for this special section

Partly sunny

*Breezy today
with a milder afternoon*

High 56° Low 44°

Weather 8D

Belleville News-Democrat

Wednesday, December 1, 1999

Serving Southwestern Illinois

50 cents

>KNIGHT RIDDER<

INFORMATION FOR LIFE

Solutia offers cleanup proposal for tainted Dead Creek

By Monica Polanco

Belleville News-Democrat

Krummrich plant in Sauget helped create contamination

CAHOKIA — Solutia Inc. may agree to clean up the most heavily contaminated area in Dead Creek if the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approves Solutia's proposal, officials said Tuesday.

Solutia's management hopes to present the EPA with a cleanup design Friday for removing hazardous materials released from its W.G. Krummrich plant in Sauget, said Michael Light, Solutia's project

manager. The cleanup is expected to begin this winter and is projected to last about two months, said Kevin Turner, an EPA representative.

Light was one of about 50 people, including residents of Cahokia and the Dead Creek area, who attended a town meeting at the Bethel United Church of Christ to update residents on contaminants found in Dead Creek, a site of toxic dumping for more than 40 years.

Solutia, which produces chemicals for motor oil, dyes and pain relievers, is studying contamination levels in two areas on the southern tip of the creek under an order issued in June by the EPA. The company polluted the creek while operating as Monsanto.

The locations, named areas one and two, were chosen because they are the most highly concentrated areas of toxic waste, Turner said.

The EPA is monitoring Solutia's investigation and taking independent samples of ground water, soil and other sediment to verify Solutia's findings, Turner said. The contamination in the area was brought to light by the 1993 floods, which unearthed several drums of toxic chemicals and paint waste.

For years, the Illinois EPA tried to reach an agreement with Solutia and 25 other companies believed respon-

sible for the contamination, but was unsuccessful. This year, the U.S. EPA, which has more resources, stepped in to help resolve the problem, said Michael McAteer, EPA remedial project manager.

Though the process of bringing accountability has been long, residents of Dead Creek said they hope the federal government's involvement will push Solutia into action.

"I feel more confident that something's going to be done," said Diane McDonnell, who lives on Judith Lane. "We're being taken more seriously now."

But waste removal will not begin until after April 2001, after the final study results.

"It's not an easy answer," Turner said. "We're kind of looking at this in phases. You just don't go in there and all of a sudden have the flooding go away."

The creek has overflowed into neighboring homes.